

BUILD BACK BETTER FOR CHILDREN

A Fact Sheet On The Child Provisions In
H.R.5376 The Build Back Better Act



The United States House of Representatives just passed H.R. 5376—a historic package of provisions that will make transformational differences in the lives of children. As this bill moves to the Senate chamber, we urge all senators to join in this moment and be a champion for children by passing the Build Back Better Act.

The child related provisions in the Build Back Better Act are all interrelated, and must be viewed as a combined effort to better the lives of children across the country. America's children cannot afford to lose any of these essential investments.

CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING

Access to quality, affordable child care will dramatically increase as the Build Back Better Act provides federal funding support to child care and early learning providers and **caps child care costs for most families at 7% of their income**. The lowest-income families will pay nothing for child care. And child care workers, some of the most underpaid professionals in this country, will see increased wages and professional development opportunities. Build Back Better also creates **free universal preschool for all 3 and 4 year olds**. These provisions allow many underserved children the first opportunity to participate in an early learning program and are essential to the development, care, and education of all children.

CHILD TAX CREDIT (CTC)

The extension of the recent Child Tax Credit improvements continues long overdue changes to the tax code to benefit low- and moderate- income families and significantly reduce child poverty. The Build Back Better Act **extends the CTC improvements for an additional year and makes the full-refundability provision permanent**, ensuring lower-income families previously left behind will remain eligible for the full CTC benefit. Other essential components include restoration of eligibility for children with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers; equal treatment of residents of the territories; monthly advance payments; coverage of 17-year olds, and other structural changes.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

The **permanent extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** will ensure that the health care of millions of children will never again be put in jeopardy or paused due to funding renewals of the program. The bill makes other critical improvements to the program, including allowing **states to increase the eligibility levels**, and providing **1 year of continuous eligibility** for children. These changes will eliminate disruptions in coverage for children due to fluctuations in their parents' income, and allow for continuous access to medications and health care services.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)

Enhancements to the EITC **lower the age of eligibility** for the credit to 18 from 25 for former foster youth and youth experiencing homelessness who do not have qualifying children and drop the age to 19 for other adult childless workers. The improvements also **increase the amount of the credit** and could benefit between an estimated 380,000 and 500,000 former foster youth.

HOUSING

The bill provides **funding for Housing Choice Vouchers** to help low-income households afford rent, including small pots of money for recruiting landlords to participate in the voucher program and grants to housing agencies to offer wrap-around housing mobility services to assist some families who wish to use vouchers to move to higher opportunity neighborhoods. **It is critical that low-income families with children, especially those experiencing homelessness, are a priority for these vouchers so children can access stable housing to support their healthy development.**

IMMIGRATION

Millions of children in the United States have an undocumented parent or caregiver. While falling short of the permanency of a pathway to citizenship, the **temporary protections from deportation and work permits** included in the Build Back Better Act will alleviate the harms of family separation and allow caregivers to provide for their children. The bill would also recapture unused family-based green cards for families who have been waiting years to reunite with their relatives.

NUTRITION

The Build Back Better Act will **expand the reach of free school meals** to nearly 9 million children; create a permanent, nationwide program to **extend Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer** to more eligible low-income children, and increase access to healthier foods at school.

PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

The Build Back Better Act permanently authorizes the first ever paid family and medical leave guarantee in the United States. The legislation provides **4 weeks of paid leave** for U.S. workers after the birth or adoption of a child, or a serious medical condition of themselves or a family member.

POSTPARTUM COVERAGE

The Build Back Better Act will guarantee **12 months of postpartum coverage** for individuals insured through the Medicaid program, rather than the 60 days that are currently provided. Medicaid coverage plays an important role in reducing the unacceptably high rates of maternal mortality in this country, which disproportionately kill people of color. Postpartum Medicaid coverage currently varies widely among states, and the Build Back Better Act would provide adequate coverage to all beneficiaries, benefiting themselves, their children, and their families.



Be a champion for children and pass the full Build Back Better Act.